

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 8-18 have been cancelled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to pursue these or similar claims in future applications. Claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 3-7 are now pending in the application.

Office Action of April 21, 2006.

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action of April 21, 2006, in which the examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), objected to claim 1 for informality, and objected to the drawings for failing to illustrate certain aspects of method claims. The Office Action also indicated that claims 3-7 are allowable.

Drawing objection

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, a new drawing, FIG. 9, that shows the steps related to setting aside of a share of the jackpot and awarding the same to previous non-winners is enclosed herewith. Applicants submit that the flow chart illustrated in FIG. 9 reflects the steps included in the originally submitted method claims and no new matter is introduced. A corresponding explanation for FIG. 9 is included in the new paragraph submitted above. Applicants submit that the new paragraph repeats the information previously disclosed in the specification and likewise does not introduce new matter.

Claims rejection and objection

The Office Action indicated that claims 1 and 2 are rejected as being anticipated by Muniz (WIPO publication WO 01/74460 A2, application PCT/IB01/00666). Applicants disagree and traverse the rejection, but nonetheless, have cancelled claims 1 and 2 in the present application in order to facilitate allowance..

Applicants agree with the Examiner that claims 3-7 contain allowable subject matter and therefore, claims 1-2 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 3,

4, and 6 amended to be independent in form. Applicants submit that claims 3-7 are in proper condition for allowance and early notification thereof is respectfully solicited.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

Applicants have reviewed and agreed with the Examiner that references, Mullins (U.S. Pat. No. 6,210,276 B1) and Markowicz (U.S. Pat. No. 4,842,287), are pertinent, but do not anticipate or render obvious, either singly or in combination, the present invention.

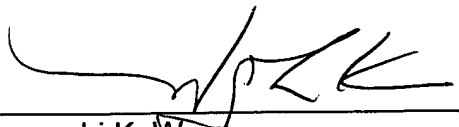
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3-7 as amended are in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is requested. If necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (404-815-3383) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

No additional fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, including any necessary extensions of time, which are hereby requested to Deposit Account No. 03-0683.

Respectfully submitted,
Jubinville et al.
By their Representatives,

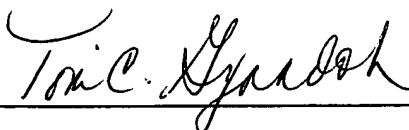
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Date 8/30/06

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30th day of August, 2006.



Toni C. Gyandoh